

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SAM-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS:CEK (AMENDED BY
APPROVED BY NEA - MR SOBER
NEA/PA - MR SHERMAN
H - MISS FOLGER
CU/NEA - MRS. ANYASO
S/S - JPMOFFAT
S - MR GOMPERT

----- 029679

O P 052053Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104571

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, EG
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARIAN VISIT TO WASHINGTON ENDS ON
SUCCESSFUL NOTE

REFERENCE: STATE 100212

1. PARLIAMENTARIAN VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS CONTINUED ON
SUCCESSFUL BASIS. DELEGATION, INCLUDING WIVES, GOE
OFFICIALS BASHIR AND MOUSA, AND AMBASSADOR GHORBAL RECEIVED
BY PRESIDENT WITH SECRETARY PARTICIPATING MORNING OF APRIL
30 FOR 25-MINUTE MEETING (SCHEDULED FOR 15 MINUTES). DELE-
GATION WAS IMPRESSED THAT PRESIDENT TOOK TIME TO MEET WITH
THEM DURING TIME OF VIETNAM EVACUATION AND APPRECIATED THE
FRIENDLY TONE AND REASSURING SUBSTANCE OF HIS REMARKS TO
THEM. DELEGATION MEMBERS ASKED QUESTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE
RAISED SECRETARY'S MEETING (REFTEL) AND PRESIDENT ASSURED
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THEM THAT US WAS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ITS PEACEKEEPING
EFFORTS AND NOT TO PERMIT A STALEMATE TO DEVELOP. PRESIDENT
FORD TWICE ASKED THAT HIS PERSONAL GREETINGS BE CONVEYED TO
PRESIDENT SADAT AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR SADAT'S

HAVING RECEIVED US REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS. HE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH VISITS TO BOTH THE US AND EGYPT. THEIR VISIT TO THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED ONLY BRIEF PRESS COVERAGE, WHICH WAS TO BE EXPECTED GIVEN CONCENTRATION ON VIETNAM EVENTS.

2. PARLIAMENTARIANS PLUS WIVES, TWO GOE OFFICIALS AND GHORBAL WERE RECEIVED BY VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER FOR 45-MINUTE DISCUSSION MORNING MAY 1 (ALSO SCHEDULED FOR 15 MINUTES). INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE ENCOURAGED FRANK AND USEFUL DISCUSSION, AND GROUP WAS ENORMOUSLY IMPRESSED BY VICE PRESIDENT'S SINCERITY AND OPENESS. VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER EXPRESSED HIS GREAT ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT, WHOM HE HAD MET IN RIYADH. HE ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGED MORE VISITS TO THE US BY SIMILAR ARAB DELEGATIONS.

3. INTERVENING TIME DURING THEIR VISIT UNTIL THEIR DEPARTURE AFTERNOON MAY 1 WAS COMPLETELY OCCUPIED BY MEETINGS WITH CONGRESS AND WITH MEDIA. THEY HAVE MET WITH ALL THE LEADERSHIP ON THE HILL AND ALMOST ALL INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (EXCEPT SENATOR JACKSON). MANY CONGRESSMEN HAVE TAKEN SPECIAL PAINS TO SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE HOSPITALITY WHICH THEY WERE SHOWN IN EGYPT AND FOR THE PARLIAMENTARIANS' EXPRESSIONS OF EGYPT'S DESIRES FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. EVENING OF APRIL 30 DELEGATION WAS SPLIT UP FOR INFORMAL DINNERS HOSTED SEPARATELY BY CONGRESSMEN CONTE, HAMILTON/DERWINSKI, MCCLORY, PICKLE AND PREYER. CONTE'S DINNER INCLUDED MAJORITY LEADER O'NEILL AND AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK DISCUSSION DURING TYPICALLY AMERICAN STEAK COOK-OUT. DEPARTMENT IS DRAWING UP LIST OF CONGRESSMEN WITH WHOM DELEGATION MET AND WE BELIEVE IT WILL TOTAL OVER 100.

4. OTEIFY AND LEILA TAKLA APPEARED ON NBC TODAY SHOW MORNING OF MAY 1 AND MADE VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION (SUMMARY OF PROGRAM BEING REPEATED SEPARATELY). BASHIR ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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APPEARED ON ABC MORNING NEWS PROGRAM AND ALSO MADE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION.

5. GROUP DEPARTED AFTERNOON MAY 1, SOME FOR HOUSTON AND REST FOR PHOENIX, AFTER WHAT WE CONSIDER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT IN TERMS OF EXPLAINING EGYPTIAN DESIRES FOR PEACE AND FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US. WE EXPECT THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE FAVORABLE IMPACT AS THEY TRAVEL ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THAT THEY WILL RECEIVE INCREASING MEDIA ATTENTION.

6. IN ALL THEIR MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS, CONGRESSMEN AND THE MEDIA DELEGATION HAS TAKEN MODERATE LINE, EMPHA-

SIZING EGYPTIAN DESIRES FOR PEACE, FOR IMPROVING STANDARD OF LIVING, FOR END OF TENSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US. THEY HAVE AVOIDED ATTACKS ON ISRAEL, THOUGH MAKING CLEAR THEIR VIEW THAT BLAME FOR FAILURE OF LAST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS LIES AT

TEL AVIV'S DOOR. RECURRENT THEMES HAVE BEEN THAT THEY RECOGNIZE US SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL; THAT US IS COMMITTED TO EXISTENCE OF STATE OF ISRAEL, BUT THIS COMMITMENT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO ISRAEL WITHIN 1967 BORDERS AND NOT TO EXPANDED ISRAEL; AND THAT OVER ABUNDANCE OF US AID TO ISRAEL MERELY MAKES ISRAEL MORE INTRANSIGENT. DELEGATION SHOWS EVIDENCE OF THOROUGH BRIEFINGS IN CAIRO AND BY AMBASSADOR GHORBAL ON APPROACHES TO TAKE WITH AMERICAN OPINION LEADERS AND PUBLIC.

7. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY HAS COORDINATED CLOSELY WITH CU, H AND NEA IN PRODUCING EXCELLENT PROGRAM FOR THEIR VISIT. KISSINGER

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